

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

3/8/06 This is a division of co-pending application Ser. No. 10/171,125 entitled Fluid Coupling for Mobile Equipment, which was filed on June 13, 2002, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

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STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention has to do with a fluid coupling for use on diesel engine-driven mobile equipment such as wood chippers, rock crushers, road surface grinders (also known as scarifiers or road millers), and the like comminuting mills. This comminuting mill equipment is typically used in conjunction with feedstock conveyors, or in the case of the road surface grinder, used in conjunction with a method to move the grinder along the road to be ground. For controlling the speed and connecting and disconnecting the mills and engines, there are four types of clutch in common use. Three types can be engaged and disengaged with the engine running: a mechanical clutch, a hydraulically operated mechanical clutch, and a fluid coupling. One type must be engaged with the driver stopped and it is usually disengaged with the driver running: a mechanical torque limiter. The feedstock conveyors, or driving mechanisms of road grinders, are typically driven separately by hydraulic motors via hydraulic pumps that are mounted on and powered by the diesel engine, the conveyors being controlled by a manual control valve remotely operated by the operator of the mobile equipment. Heretofore, with a mechanical clutch, the conveyors have been run at a